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EXAMINER

RUTTEN, JAMES D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2192

DATE MAILED: 12/16/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/866,131

Applicant(s)

STAPP ET AL.

Examiner

J. Derek Rutten

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 9/21/05.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 35-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 35-46 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to Applicant's amendment dated 9/21/05, responding to the 5/6/04 Office action provided in the rejection of claims 1-34, wherein claims 1-34 have been canceled, and new claims 35-46 have been added. Claims 35-46 remain pending in the application and have been fully considered by the examiner.

2. Applicant's arguments with respect to the rejection of the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

3. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Drawings

4. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the following items must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

- Information related to individual functionalities of a plurality of filters (Claim 39)

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

5. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

6. Claims 43-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because they are not limited to tangible embodiments. In view of Applicant's disclosure, no definite limits are placed on the computer readable medium, thus broad interpretation would allow both tangible embodiments (e.g. magnetic disk) and intangible embodiments (e.g. wireless signals). As such, the claim is not limited to statutory subject matter and is therefore non-statutory.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 35, 37-39, 41-43, 45, and 46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,941,511 to Hind et al. (hereinafter "Hind") in view of U.S. Patent 6,289,382 to Bowman-Amuah (hereinafter "Bowman-Amuah").

In regard to claim 35, Hind discloses:

A method for converting user specified data using a conversion pipeline, the user specified data being associated with configuration data that includes at least one configuration parameter, the method comprising:

reading the configuration data; based at least in part on the configuration data, determining an appropriate conversion pipeline configuration for a conversion pipeline that converts the user specified data, See column 5 lines 3-6:

Processing the incoming source documents further comprises: receiving a source document; selecting, manually or based upon a comparison of the received source document to the stored transformation information, zero or more fast transformations to be performed; applying the selected fast transformations; and generating one or more output documents as a result of those applications of the selected transformations.

wherein determining an appropriate conversion pipeline configuration comprises:

selecting a plurality of included filters from a plurality of filters for inclusion in the conversion pipeline configuration, based at least in part on individual filter functionalities associated with the included filters, See column 16 lines 29-31:

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Block 1330 then obtains the map from the proper transformation object (preferably using a signature to locate a matching object, as described above with reference to Block 1110 of FIG. 11), and Block 1340 locates the operation code within the map.

determining a filter order for the included filters, based at least in part on the individual filter functionalities, to convert the user specified data; column 12

lines 40-47:

Each map element has an attribute which is used to specify the operation code of the map. The values of this attribute are preferably keywords from a predetermined set corresponding to the set of transformations supported. For example, the attribute values for the above-described set of 10 transformation operations may be "DELETE", "ADD", "COPY", "MOVE", "FILTER", "REORDER", "RENAME", "MERGE", "E2A", and "A2E".

configuring the conversion pipeline according to the conversion pipeline

configuration by connecting the included filters in the filter order with a plurality of

pipes; See column 16 lines 34-46:

The map operation code determines the transformation logic to be performed, such as ADD or COPY. Blocks 1350, 1360, and 1370 operate to process the source and target parameters from the map, as described above with reference to Blocks 1210 and 1220 of FIG. 12. The target node is set from the source node and placed in the output document according to information specified in an anchor tag within the target (see 960 of FIG. 9 for an example). Block 1380 asks whether there are more maps to be applied. If so, control returns to Block 1330 to begin processing the next map, otherwise, the target document is used as the output of the transformation process (Block 1390), and the processing of FIG. 13 ends

converting the user specified data with the conversion pipeline. See column 5

lines 7-8:

generating one or more output documents as a result of those applications of the selected transformations

Hind does not expressly disclose *pipeline* or *filters*. However, in an analogous environment, Bowman-Amuah teaches pipeline processing includes choosing filters and connecting them using pipes. See column 197 lines 8-10:

Typically a system is defined by an active filter at the beginning of the Processing Pipeline, that pulls input data from the data source and initiates further processing by pushing the data to a chain of passive filters situated down the pipeline

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Bowman-Amuah's teaching of pipelines with Hind's transformation system. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to apply transformations in a manner that permits flexible configuration (Bowman-Amuah column 197 line 9).

In regard to claim 37, the above rejection of claim 35 is incorporated. Hind further discloses: *wherein the configuration data associated with the user specified data is stored as metadata corresponding to the user specified data*. Hind discloses using XML data in order to configure the transformation. See column 4 lines 56-57 and column 5 lines 3-6.

In regard to claim 38, the above rejection of claim 37 is incorporated. Hind further discloses: *wherein the configuration data is stored as XML tags*. See column 2 lines 64-66.

In regard to claim 39, Hind discloses:

A system See FIG. 2.

a user input that enable a user to input the user specified data; See column 2 line 66 – column 3 line 1.

a filter information source that stores information related to individual functionalities of a plurality of filters; and See column 19 lines 9-11:

This capability can be further utilized to set up a cache of precompiled XSLTs together with the maps.

a pipeline assembler that reads the configuration data, consults the filter information source, See column 9 lines 17-21:

According to the present invention, relatively short transformations on structured documents are performed by a process (referred to herein as a special purpose transformation engine or "map-based" engine) which is optimized for this purpose.

All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 35.

In regard to claim 41, the above rejection of claim 39 is incorporated. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 37.

In regard to claim 42, the above rejection of claim 41 is incorporated. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 38.

In regard to claim 43, Hind discloses a computer readable medium. See column 8 lines 29-33. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 35.

In regard to claim 45, the above rejection of claim 43 is incorporated. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 37.

In regard to claim 46, the above rejection of claim 45 is incorporated. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 38.

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9. Claims 36, 40, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hind and Bowman-Amuah as applied to claim 35 above, and further in view of prior art of record "Computer User's Dictionary" by Microsoft Press (hereinafter referred to as "Microsoft").

In regard to claim 36, the above rejection of claim 35 is incorporated. Hind does not expressly disclose a lookup table. However, in an analogous environment, Microsoft teaches the use of a table to look up data (page 337 "table lookup"). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use Microsoft's table in Hind's map lookup. One of ordinary skill would have been motivated to store data in a logical structure to enable fast and efficient searching.

In regard to claim 40, the above rejection of claim 39 is incorporated. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 36.

In regard to claim 44, the above rejection of claim 43 is incorporated. All further limitations have been addressed in the above rejection of claim 36.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to J. Derek Rutten whose telephone number is (571) 272-3703. The examiner can normally be reached on T-F 6:00 - 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tuan Q. Dam can be reached on (571) 272-3695. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.



ANTONY NGUYEN-BA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

jdr